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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,640	05/08/2001	Neil Latache	VRTY-001/00US	3606

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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 01/22/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,640

Applicant(s)

LATARCHE ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/5/04.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments filed December 5, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant states on page 5, "Furegati fails to disclose each of the elements set forth in claim 1...merging said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group." Examiner respectfully disagrees. Furegati teaches in col. 7, line 26 to col. 8, line 33, the following;

"FIG. 4A outlines the mapping of an information unit 24 to and from the data container structure of a storage segment 40. One possible way to perform such a **mapping is to associate the parametric index elements 25, contextual index elements 26, and signal index elements 27 of each information unit to be stored in a particular storage segment 40 with the corresponding index subsections 41 (parametric), 42 (contextual), and 43 (signal) of that storage segment. Similarly, the body data 28 of the information unit 24 are mapped to/from the body data subsection 44 of that storage segment, and the annotation data 29 relate to the annotation data subsection 45.**

(14) FIG. 4B outlines, in some detail, the relational structures of two of the subsections of the storage segment 40: for the parametric index subsection 41 and for the body data subsection 44, and the relations between these two subsections. In our example, a Relational Database Management System (RDBMS) is used for implementing the data container structure of the storage segment 40. Other File or Database Management System types could be used as well instead of an RDBMS, the only condition to be met being an unambiguous **mapping between the logical (conceptual) data structure of information unit 24 and the particular storage segment 40 as a container for their data.** Essentially, the relational body data table 46 consists of rows and, per row, of three columns: of a compound key 463 followed by a data string 464 per row. The first part of the compound key 463 is a reference pointer 461, its second part a row number 462. For each particular information unit 24 in FIG. 4A to be stored in a particular storage segment 40 of FIGS. 4A and 4B, a unique key value 461 is assigned; however, its format and value may be chosen arbitrarily. The value of the row number 462 must be unique per row of a particular information unit; also, it must allow to unambiguously represent the correct order of each row within a particular information unit. This row numbering scheme is used to

Art Unit: 2171

spread very long body data over multiple rows, if necessary....”

Examiner maintains that above teaching by Furegati clearly reads on the above claimed limitation. From the above, it can be seen that “parametric index elements” and “contextual index elements” and/or “signal index elements” correspond to the first and the second parametric group stored in the information unit 24 to be merged or mapped to produce a merged group that corresponds to the data container 40.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Furegati et al. (U. S. Patent no. 5,966,704).

Regarding claims 1 and 14, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing, comprising:

- forming a parametric index (parametric index 25, Fig.4A, Furegati) from an indexed database (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati). “Data container” (40, Fig.4A) corresponds to “index database”;
- specifying a first parametric group and a second parametric group corresponding to elements in said parametric index (see col.7, lines 28-33, Furegati).

Art Unit: 2171

- “Contextual index elements” and “signal index elements” correspond to a “first parametric group” and “second parametric group” respectively;
- merging said first parametric group and the second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group (see Fig.4A-B; col.7, line 26 to col. 8, line 50, Furegati). “Contextual index elements”, “signal index elements” and “Storage segment” (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a “first parametric group”, “second parametric group” and “merged parametric group”; and
 - extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein the parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The “hit list” is the result that is extracting from searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

Regarding claims 2 and 15, Furegati further discloses the step of listing a parametric group (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati).

Regarding claims 3 and 16, Furegati further discloses the step of deriving a parametric group from text search results (see col. 6, lines 43-46).

Regarding claims 4 and 17, Furegati further discloses the step of mapping the text search results into the parametric index to identify a parametric group (see col. 7, lines 26-33, Furegati).

Regarding claim 5, Furegati further discloses the step of assigning every element in a bucket array to distinct bucket set parents to produce a structured bucket array (see col. 7, lines 49-62, Furegati). The rows and columns of table (47, Fig. 4B, Furegati) made up an array of elements in an information unit.

Regarding claim 6, Furegati further discloses the step of taking the cross of all elements in said structured bucket array to produce a parametric group (see col. 7, lines 56-62, Furegati).

Regarding claims 7, 11 and 18, Furegati further discloses the step taking the union of said first parametric group and said second parametric group to produce said merged parametric group (see col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 5, Furegati).

Regarding claims 8, 12 and 19, Furegati further discloses the step of collecting document identifications for said merged parametric group (see col. 7, lines 52-62 and col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The “hit list” is the result that is extracting from storing, searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati). The “index reference” corresponds to “document identification”.

Regarding claims 9, 13 and 20, Furegati further discloses the step of forming the union of said document identifications to produce said parametric result (see col. 7, lines 1-15, Furegati).

Regarding claim 10, Furegati discloses a method of parametric group processing, comprising:

- performing a text search to produce text search results (see col.3, line 65 to col.4, line 4 and lines 8-15, Furegati);
- mapping said text search results into a parametric index to identify a first parametric group (see col.7, lines 26-33 and Fig.4B, Furegati); "contextual" and "contextual index subsection" corresponds to "text" and "parametric index", and the "contextual" search results that is mapping into "contextual index subsection"
- merging said first parametric group with a second parametric group to produce a merged parametric group(see col.7, lines 33-37 and col. 7, line 63 to col. 8, line 8, Furegati). "Contextual index elements", "signal index elements" and "Storage segment" (40, Fig.4A) correspond to a "first parametric group", "second parametric group" and "merged parametric group"; and
- extracting a parametric result from said merged parametric group, wherein said
- parametric result specifies a set of documents (see col. 10, lines 20-24, Furegati). The "hit list" is the result that is extracting from searching and retrieving the information units of documents (see col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, lines 15, Furegati).

Conclusion

3. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


Art Unit: 2171


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Hanh Thai 
Art Unit 2171
January 16, 2004


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